



EIDPS024



DARWIN200

Submit by Friday 19 February 2010

APPLICATION FOR DARWIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ROUND 17

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required. Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue.

1. Name and address of UK Host organisation (NB: Notification of results will be by post and addressed to the main UK Expert listed in Section 5)

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Name: Dr Paul F Donald | Address: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), The Lodge, Sandy, UK, SG19 2DL |
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2. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Fellow (include email and telephone details where available)

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|----------------------|
| Maxim Koshkin |
|----------------------|

3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Proposed start date: 01.09.2010 Duration of project: 12 months End date: 01.09.2011 | | | |
| Darwin funding requested | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | Total |
| | £ 16,550 | £10,000 | £26,550 |

4. Summary of proposed Fellowship (no more than 100 words) ie Purpose and expected outputs and outcome

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| <p>Maxim Koshkin works in Kazakhstan for the national nature conservation NGO ACBK and is involved in its research, conservation and educational activities. The proposed 1-year Fellowship will help Maxim to attend the MSc in Applied Ecology and Conservation at the University of East Anglia. After completion of 6 months of taught units, Maxim will conduct his own MSc research project on steppe conservation in Kazakhstan, linked to various current ACBK and Darwin projects. Maxim will also contribute to ACBK's conservation education programme, which aims to fill the generation gap in nature conservationists in Kazakhstan by training promising university students.</p> |
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5. Principals in the Project. Please give the details of the individuals from the UK host organisations (and other institutions if relevant) who would be directly involved in supervising/working with the Darwin Fellow. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than one overseas project partner.

| Details | Main UK expert | Other UK expert | Oversees partner | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Surname | Bell | Donald | Sklyarenko | |
| Forename(s) | Diana | Paul | Sergey | |
| Post held | Senior Lecturer | Principal Conservation Scientist | Director | |
| Institution (if different to UK Host) | University of East Anglia (UEA) | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) | Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK) | |
| Department | Biological Sciences | Conservation Science | | |
| Telephone | | | | |
| Email | | | | |

6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the UK Host organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department) (150 words)

The RSPB works for a healthy environment rich in birds and other wildlife, both in the UK and overseas. As the UK member of the global BirdLife International partnership, the RSPB aims to prevent the extinction of bird species in the wild, to conserve and improve habitats important for birds, to help, through birds, to conserve biodiversity and to improve the quality of people's livelihoods.

Internationally, the RSPB provides capacity-building support to partner organisations in Africa and Asia, the UK Overseas Territories and in southern and eastern Europe. Over the past 20 years, the RSPB has provided direct support to 35 BirdLife partners, including the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK). Many of these have become the foremost conservation organisations in their countries, with active programmes of conservation, public awareness, education and advocacy and close working relationships with government.

The RSPB's Annual Report is available at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/about/run/annualreview.asp>

7. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the proposed Darwin Fellow's employing organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department) (150 words)

The Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK) is a young and dynamic nature conservation organization and its goal is conservation of wildlife and ecosystems, ensuring sustainable use of natural resources in Kazakhstan. Among the most successful ACBK projects have been two Darwin-funded projects, the IBA Conservation Project, which aims to identify and protect key biodiversity territories, based on international criteria, developed by BirdLife International, and an intensive research and conservation project on the critically endangered Sociable Lapwing. More recently, the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative aims to conserve vast steppe territories. ACBK actively supports a network of student bird watching clubs, giving them opportunity to receive professional training and participate in conservation projects. On local level ACBK is in regular contact with the Committee of Forestry and Hunting, working in collaboration on a number of projects on steppe conservation.

8. Describe briefly the proposed Fellow's current role within their organisation and their link to a Darwin project, including the project reference number, his/her role in that project and any ongoing involvement. (200 words)

Working for ACBK for the last 6 years, Maxim has led the organisation's research and conservation work on Sociable Lapwing – an enigmatic and critically threatened bird, breeding mainly in steppes of Kazakhstan. Maxim is currently acting both as National Sociable Lapwing Project Coordinator and Coordinator of the Sociable Lapwing International Working Group. His main responsibilities in these posts are the following: coordination of all Sociable Lapwing research related activities, leading field teams and overseeing data collection, public awareness raising, students training, developing contacts with local stakeholders and government and coordination of the working group. Maxim started to work of the project in 2004 and in 2006 the team received a substantial award to RSPB for 3 years from the Darwin Initiative ('Conserving a flagship steppe species: The critically endangered Sociable Lapwing', ref: 15-032). Maxim was heavily involved in further work as National Project Coordinator. In 2009, a Darwin post-project award was received by the project team ('Tracking the Sociable Lapwing: conservation beyond the breeding grounds', ref: EIDPO035) and Maxim will be involved in further research until August 2009. The great success of these two projects is due largely to Maxim's contribution to them.

9. Provide a concept note on the Darwin Fellowship (maximum 1,000 words). This should include:

- a clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Fellowship
- the role of the UK Host organisation, and others where relevant (including contacts)
- where appropriate, how the Fellowship will contribute towards sustainable development or sustainable livelihoods ie what the expected outcome of the Fellowship will be, with regard to the higher goals of the Darwin Initiative

Fellowship aim and objectives:

We hope to help Maxim to continue his already promising career in conservation research and practice in his home country of Kazakhstan. Studying at a MSc course at UEA would allow Maxim greatly to increase his chances of further involvement in nature conservation in the country at even higher levels, helping to fill the gap left by the recent emigration of a high proportion of the country's experts in conservation science. The timing of this course fits well with the end of the Darwin-funded project. Although Maxim's first degree was in English Teaching (he is fluent in English), he has proved a very able scientist and is now able to deliver courses in bird survey methodology.

In Kazakhstan, resources for nature conservation are limited, considering the existing threats and the size of the country. Vast territories and many species of wild animals urgently need conservation actions, in many cases to stop habitat degradation and unsustainable use, but also to preserve some areas in their pristine state.

With 6 years of unique experience of working on a large-scale scientific project, and with his responsibilities covering many different aspects of its work, Maxim now needs to work to a high level formal qualification. Maxim's choice of education in the UK is linked to his long-term working relationships with UK partners, particularly RSPB, and his fluency in English. The decision to study at UEA can be explained by its popularity among international students, high level of education and worldwide reputation. The MSc course chosen – Applied Ecology and Conservation – is ideal for those who want to continue carrier in conservation. No equivalent courses are available in Kazakhstan.

On his return to Kazakhstan, Maxim will resume his work for ACBK, whose policy is to support a young generation of local conservationists, thus his line manager fully supports this initiative and welcomes the increased capacity that Maxim's education will bring to the organisation. Maxim is already involved in a training programme for undergraduate students, who otherwise have little access to biodiversity training, and his MSc would allow him to teach to a higher level, including Masters students, in Kazakhstan. Thus the training of a single individual will have wider benefits in that this learning will be disseminated through already existing networks.

The role of the UK Host organization

Maxim will maintain and build on his already close links with RSPB colleagues by regular visits to the RSPB headquarters. His participation in various workshops and conferences, with RSPB support, will help Maxim to develop his networking and communication skills. Being able to meet people at such events, sharing experience, views, plans will allow him to establish useful contacts among conservationists from all over the world. We hope Maxim will also establish new links with potential UK-based donors, with and without the

RSPB's help, to the great benefit of ACBK and biodiversity in Kazakhstan.

Experts, both from the RSPB and UEA will support Maxim during his planned research work in Kazakhstan. The exact concept of this research work is under development at the moment, but it will be definitely linked to steppe – the most understudied and unprotected habitat in Kazakhstan. This will include data collection in field and subsequent data analysis and publication.

Contribution to sustainable development

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, biology students in Kazakhstan have had very little opportunity to be involved in practical research or conservation activities. The quality of education has declined and is mostly based on out-of-date literature and methodology, so students do not have many chances to become trained to high standards in conservation or ecology. This situation is only slowly changing for the better, and we feel that the knowledge Maxim will receive during the Fellowship, and the dissemination of this knowledge afterwards, will make a considerable contribution towards providing promising Kazakhstani students with sufficient high-level training, both in theory and in the field – something they otherwise lack. The training Maxim will give upon his return to his home country will help many local students to learn from international expertise in nature conservation, thus ensuring a long-term conservation legacy for young local experts, and contribute greatly to a range of projects being undertaken by ACBK. This training will greatly contribute to the current process of recruiting of constantly growing number of biology and ecology students into applied conservation and research.

10. Legacy. Provide information on how the Darwin Fellow will utilise, promote and disseminate the benefits of the Fellowship on return to his/her home country. Will a strategy be developed during the Fellowship to ensure this is achieved? (200 words)

By the conclusion of the Fellowship, Maxim, with the help from all parties involved, will compile a conservation education programme for undergraduate students in Kazakhstan. At his current position at ACBK, Maxim regularly runs various training activities, mainly through organizing and giving some theoretical and practical training to students of ACBK's Student Birdwatching Clubs. This recently established network of University-based clubs unites more than 130 biology students, some of whom are already actively involved in conservation and research projects; two have become full-time employees of ACBK. Maxim will provide these future conservationists and scientists with further training, involving Masters students as well. The proposed Fellow will also disseminate the knowledge received among his colleagues, thus helping ACBK to build its internal capacity. Another high priority for Maxim will be raising ACBK's profile at national and international levels, through regular contacts with government and international partners, as well as various mass media, and updating them on ACBK's success. Based on existing contacts at decision-making institutions, Maxim will further develop and strengthen these connections, involving them increasingly in ACBK's activities. ACBK's efforts of seeking funding for conservation activities within Kazakhstan will improve with the experience Maxim gains during his fellowship.

11. How will the Fellowship assist the Fellow's organisation and/or local communities and/or home country in working towards the objectives (or implementation) of the CBD/CITES/CMS? Please refer to specific Articles or cross cutting themes as appropriate. (200 words)

Kazakhstan is a party of CBD, CMS and CITES Conventions. ACBK is working closely with the Committee of Forestry and Hunting and the Ministry for the Environment Protection – the state institutions responsible for these conventions. Current projects on conservation of such threatened species as Saiga antelope and Sociable Lapwing, as well as other threatened local and migrating steppe species, are directly contributing to the goals of all three conventions (Article 12 of the CBD, Article 3 of the CMS). Maxim will be involved in these projects upon his return to Kazakhstan, as well as in other future projects related to steppe conservation. During his Fellowship Maxim, together with the UK experts and his colleagues from ACBK will develop a training course in conservation for local students and will conduct them through the existing ACBK's network of Student Birdwatching Clubs. Student training and public awareness activities by ACBK meet the objectives of Articles 12 and 13 of the CBD: *Establish and maintain programmes for scientific and technical education and training ... and provide support for such education and training for the specific needs of developing countries.*

12. What collaboration has there been with the Darwin Fellow to date in developing the proposal, and what collaboration is planned for the duration of the Fellowship? Where relevant, describe any consultation or collaboration by the proposed Fellow within his/her own country. (200 words)

The idea of applying for a Darwin Fellowship was developed by Maxim himself. He was fully involved in the Sociable Lapwing Darwin Project for a number of years and was hoping to study in the UK at the project's conclusion. Maxim was fully involved in the development of this proposal, mainly through correspondence with the Applicant. Maxim is someone that RSPB is very keen to see develop his career as it is clear from his ability and enthusiasm that he can play a very important role in the conservation of biodiversity in Kazakhstan in the future.

The placement at UEA university was proposed by the UK expert and discussed during Maxim's previous visit to the RSPB headquarters in 2009. Further information about UEA and the chosen course was obtained by Maxim through direct correspondence with this University.

The idea of having the research programme based in Kazakhstan and linked to steppe conservation was earlier proposed by Paul Donald and was fully accepted by the Fellow. Maxim's research programme will be fully supported by UK and ACBK experts, both in data collection and further analysis.

13. Where will the Darwin Fellow be based? Please be specific with organisational details and dates (where more than one location). (200 words)

Most of the time Maxim will spend at University of East Anglia, Norwich, when attending MSc course (September 2010 – February 2011)

During this time the proposed Fellow will conduct regular visits to the RSPB headquarters at the Lodge, Bedfordshire, and to the BirdLife headquarters in Cambridge, to attend various conservation workshops and talks.

After the completion of the taught courses period, the proposed Fellow will start his Individual research program in Kazakhstan (March 2011– August 2011). After completion of the fieldwork and data collection, Maxim will return to UEA in August, to submit his dissertation.

Additionally, some time will be devoted to helping writing up the analysis of data collected by the Darwin project, when needed.

14. Provide a programme of work, including key milestones, through the duration of the Fellowship

| Activity | Duration | 2010/11 | | | | | | | | | 2011/2011 | | | | | |
|--|----------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S |
| Attendance of UEA MSc course of Applied Ecology and Conservation | | | | + | + | + | + | + | + | | | | | | | |
| MSc project research in Kazakhstan/UK | | | | | | | | | | | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Development of a conservation training course for Kazakhstan undergraduates based on MSc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | + | + | |
| Submission of the dissertation at UEA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | + | |
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15. Financial Aspects. Please use UK Government Financial Years ie April 2010 – March 2011 etc)

| Fellow payment | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------|---------|---------|---|
| | 10/11 | 11/12 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | |
| London: £1200/month | Number of months | | £ | £ | |
| UK (outside London): £1000/month | 6 | 1 | | | |
| Overseas location £500/month* | 1 | 4 | | | |
| Host Organisations' costs | | | | | |
| UK: £300/month | 10/11 | 11/12 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | |
| | Number of months | 7 | 5 | £ | £ |
| Overseas location: £ /month* | Number of months | | £ | £ | |
| A. Total Fellow & Host Organisation Costs | | | | | |

| Actual travel costs (Return journey to Fellowship location) | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| | 2010/11 | 2011/12 |
| Return airfare. <i>Details</i> 2 return flight ticket Astana -London-Astana | £ | £ |
| Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> 4 train tickets London Heathrow - Norwich | | |
| Visas etc. <i>Details</i> Travel from Astana to Almaty to apply for a UK visa, plus subsistence | | |
| B. Total Fellowship Travel Costs (Actual costs up to £2000 will be paid) | | |

| Actual travel costs 'Additional Travel' | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| Maximum £500 within country of Fellowship location, £1500 for international travel. | | |
| Specify purpose. | | |
| Airfares <i>Details</i> | 2010/11 | 2011/12 |
| | £ | £ |
| Subsistence <i>Details (including number of days)</i> <i>Contact the Darwin Applications Unit for rates</i> | | |
| Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> | | |
| Visas etc. <i>Details</i> | | |
| C. Total (Other travel) costs | | |

| | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| D. ACADEMIC FEES | 2010/11 | 2011/12 |
| <i>Details</i> University fees for attending UEA MSc course | £ | £ |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| TOTAL FELLOWSHIP COSTS (A + B + C + D) | | |
|---|--|--|

* Figures available from the Darwin Applications Unit Tel: 0131 440 5180

16. Other sources of funding: provide details and amounts

Maxim will contribute £XXX from the money awarded to him by a Marsh Award, received by him in 2007. This will cover the field research related costs in Kazakhstan, such as car hire, petrol etc.

FCO NOTIFICATION

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise details of the Darwin Fellowship and the resultant work in the UK or the Darwin Fellow's home country

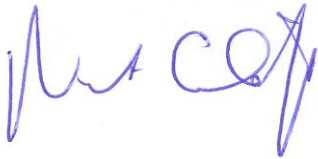
CERTIFICATION

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

I enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support as requested in the Guidance Notes.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Name (block capitals) | Dr Norbert Schaffer |
| Position in the organisation | Head of European Programmes, International Division, RSPB |

Signed



Date:

17 Feb 2010

Fellowship Application - Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|---|-------|
| Have you provided actual start and end dates for the Fellowship? | Yes |
| Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March? | Yes |
| Have you checked that your budget is complete, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application? | Yes |
| Is the concept note within 1,000 words? | Yes |
| Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable) | Yes |
| Have you included a 1 page CV for the proposed Fellow and the UK experts listed in Section 5? | Yes |
| Have you provided the relevant letters of support? | Yes |
| Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? An electronic link to a website is acceptable. | Yes |
| Have you read the Guidance Notes? | Yes |

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359h GMT on **Friday 19 February 2010** to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the name of the proposed Fellow as the subject of your email. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). In addition, a hard copy of the application and any supporting documents not available electronically should be submitted to the Darwin Applications Management Unit, c/o LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL postmarked not later than **Monday 22 February 2010**.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Darwin Initiative. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (ie name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra websites(details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts outside the United Kingdom, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.